The Evening World.

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AS PER SCHEDULE.

THE outline plan put forth last fall by the present Transit Commission for the readjustment of New York City street railroads provided for "the valuation, consolidation and municipal ownership of all transportation facilities deemed by the Transit Commission to be useful and essential."

As to the first item in the programme—valuation—the commission said:

> **Valuations according to existing security issues and present capitalization will be disregarded and the entire financial structure of the Consolidated Company will be based upon a new valuation, which, under the Rapid Transit legislation of this year (1921), is rapidly being completed. By this means the water in present financing and capitalization will be eliminated and that new valuation will represent the real values in the transportation properties.**

New valuation covering the properties of forty transit companies presumably deemed useful and essential was reported yesterday to the commission by its Bureau of Valuation.

How far does this new valuation carry out the declared intent of the commission?

To the extent of cutting some $300,000,000, about 40 per cent., from the par value of these companies' actual securities. To the extent of valuing at $465,680,154 properties which the companies value on their own books at $791,000,000. To the extent of valuing the B. R. T. system at $154,608,677 as against a book value of $247,991,278. To the extent of cutting the $119,083,606 book valuation of the New York Railways system of surface lines to a net valuation of $29,871,785—a cut of nearly 75 per cent.

In recommending that the new valuations be based on the now widely accepted principle of deducting from original cost the amount necessary to put the properties in first class operating condition, the Bureau of Valuation is in line with the expressed view of the commission as to the present plight of many of the companies:

> **Revenues that in the past should have gone into better facilities, or into the maintenance of reserves that constructive business practice required, have been paid into private pockets through swollen or forced dividends.**

The new valuations are, of course, in their present status only recommended. They will be plentifully overhauled in public hearings. The transit companies will denounce them as inhumanly low. Mayor Hylan will assail them as scandalously high.

They will have to be proved and re-proved both against the companies' claims and against the clamor of those who profess to see no reason why present transit companies shouldn't be done to death and their properties acquired for nothing.

Meanwhile the Transit Commission keeps steadily on its way. These valuation figures submitted by its Bureau of Valuation are consistent with its stated aim. They are anything but soothing to what Mayor Hylan calls "the interests." They are distinctly promising of future permanence and profitableness for a 5-cent fare.

The commission may be persuaded that its valuation experts have been here and there too generous or too drastic. Its main purpose remains the same. It is doing what it said it would do—as per schedule.

Society women who ran the Biltmore yesterday collected $1,000 an hour in tips. When the regular employees heard the news they all became social climbers.

THE "COMPREHENSIVE VIEW."

UNCLE JOE CANNON'S "golden anniversary" letter to his constituents contains some good advice—and some that is, perhaps, not so good.

One long sentence stands out. It applies not only to Uncle Joe's faithful retainers in Illinois, but to every Congressional district in the country:

"I have confidence that my successor, whoever he may be, will not alone represent the local and perhaps selfish interests of the 18th District, but also the broader national sentiment and interests of the American people, for if I have been credited with supporting policies for the benefit of the whole people, regardless of section or industry, it has been largely due to the fact that I represent people who took the same comprehensive view of the Nation as a whole and were ever willing to subordinate their own immediate desire to the welfare of the whole country."

This was a nice little compliment Uncle Joe paid to his constituents, and by implication to himself. Some may question whether the voters of the 18th District knew they were taking a "comprehensive view" in retaining Uncle Joe in Congress for so many years. There is some reason to suspect that they merely got into the habit of voting for Uncle Joe and let it go at that.

Nevertheless, it is a wise suggestion and may well be followed in the 18th Illinois District and everywhere else.

The United States is something more than the sum of 435 Congressional Districts. We need more of the "comprehensive view."

HARVEY'S WORD FOR IT.

AT the Pilgrims' dinner in London celebrating Mr. Balfour's homecoming, Ambassador Harvey lauded the achievements of the Washington Conference, rejoiced over the new fraternal light in which Great Britain and America have been revealed to each other and said:

> **"Peace on the Pacific is assured for years, probably for all time. When I say assured, I mean that I know that the ratification of these compacts, all of them, by the British Parliament is no more certain than their ratification by the Senate of the United States—and that much sooner than commonly anticipated."**

If Col. Harvey knows it, of course the United States Senate knows it. Of course, Senator Hiram Johnson knows it.

Having made one bad slip at a Pilgrims' dinner regarding the motive and spirit of the American people in entering the late war, surely Col. Harvey would not risk another regarding the attitude of a Republican Senate toward Republican-made treaties of peace.

We breathe freely again.

It is good psychology for the Income Tax Bureau to give out statistics on big income tax payments at this time. When the many who have only a thousand or two of taxable income read that three New Yorkers with combined incomes of $28,000,000 paid $18,000,000 taxes in 1919, it makes the 4 per cent. levy seem more tolerable.

THE AMERICAN GAME BETTER.

IN international competition for the amateur billiard championship, the American style of play has proved effective.

The distinguishing mark of American billiards as contrasted with European billiards is the so-called defensive game of safety play.

This is a legitimate and desirable development of the game. It is not a manifestation of an "anything to win" spirit of poor sportsmanship.

Successful safety play demands skill and intelligence. It is a step away from reliance on mechanical perfection of stroke. American players are constantly considering the comparative advantages of possible shots both in scoring and in leaving the balls in difficult position in case of a miss.

In a game between equally skilful billiard players, one of whom plays with due regard to "leaves," while the other is intent only on making shots, the safety player has a marked advantage.

The European contestants playing at Philadelphia are taking lessons from the Americans and are pretty certain to see that the defensive game makes for better billiards. They are likely to introduce more safety play in the European game.

According to the Japan Chronicle, one Iidzuka Asataro of Ibaragi, a follower of the late Marquis Okuma, who at first contemplated following that statesman across the dark river, has decided instead to stand guard at his grave for 100 days as a manifestation of his esteem for the deceased. The family has accepted the proffer.

ACHES AND PAINS
A Disjointed Column by John Keetz.

"It looks to me," said the man in the subway, "as if they were going to stall along on this bon-nus an' then sidetrack it."

"Yes," said another, "and if things don't change before long we'll have to send some intelligent men to Congress."

*

Let's hope that those Pittsburgh contractors who are to build the vehicular tunnel under the Hudson will not put New York in a hole.

*

Habits are easily acquired. Staying away from church, for instance.

*

What is the affinity between heiresses and riding masters? There was the Morosini case, the Carnegie case and now——?

*

Why not give everybody a bonus—pro bono publico?

*

SARA, THE SEMPSTRESS.

Or, Love in the Sweatshop—A Tale of New York.

CHAPTER I.

Sara Simonson sat sewing shirts steadily

"O, so many shirts. Who would think even with a clean one every Saturday night there could be such a supply needed in the world?"

So Sara Simonson speculated, sewing swiftly, seated in the sweatshop.

(To Be Continued.)

Hearing From Home!

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By John Cassel

From Evening World Readers

What kind of letter do you find most readable? Isn't it the one that gives the worth of a thousand words in a couple of hundred? There is fine mental exercise and a lot of satisfaction in trying to say much in few words. Take time to be brief.

The Bonus.

To the Editor of The Evening World:

Have noticed that your paper has had considerable editorial comment on the adjusted compensation. I have been reading this paper for the past eighteen years, but must say that at times you have used extremely poor judgment on various subjects. This happens to be one of them.

If you and a certain class of your readers would take the trouble to look at both sides of this question in a fair way you might come to a different conclusion.

I happen to have charge of relief work in my post and have had no less than a dozen cases of downright poverty among married ex-service men. In some cases a family has not had enough money to pay for the next meal. Is that a fitting way for a great country like ours to take care of its ex-service men?

The main cry of the opposition is for the disabled man. At the present time the New York State Legion is endeavoring to establish a camp in the Adirondacks for tubercular ex-service men. This will cost approximately $40,000. It is a peculiar thing but those who have been shouting loudest for the disabled man are strangely among the missing as contributors. LEWIS A. ROSE,
First Vice Commander, Greenpoint Post, No. 241, American Legion.

Who Controls the Government?

To the Editor of The Evening World:

I would like to ask a simple question through your valuable paper.

Who controls our Government? Is it the representatives people vote to seat in Washington or a few Wall Street bankers?

President Harding, in my estimation, is only a tool for the financiers. Whatever they say goes.

Lord help this country in another war. EX-SOLDIER'S WIFE.
Brooklyn, Feb. 18, 1922.

"The Only Bonus Is a Chance to Work."

To The Editor of The Evening World:

The editorial in Wednesday night's Evening World advocating land grants in Alaska in place of a bonus for ex-soldiers is the most absurd solution of the problem ever proposed.

How many of New York's ex-soldiers employed as office workers, salesmen, jewellers, garment workers, printers and lithographers, &c., are fitted by experience, temperament or physique to go pioneering in Alaska, New Mexico or Kamchatka? How many of them want to leave their homes, their families, their friends to travel thousands of miles off, never to all probability to see their old homes or their people again? How would the editorial writer, sitting comfortably in his office in the World Building, like the idea of being shipped in a freight car to Alaska, dumped out in the wilderness and told to dig his living out of the soil and raise wheat and polar bears? But, of course, poor America could not afford to pay the railroad company for freight car passage to Alaska, which would be worse than paying a cash bonus. The only way for the poor soldier to do, therefore, would be to start to walk there and beg his bread en route. Probably he would arrive in Alaska in about two years, if he were lucky.

It is not only stupid and inane, but also selfish and uncharitable to propose sending the ex-soldiers to Alaska or some other distant farming country and then sit down with a smug, self-satisfied air and talk about all you have done to reward the boys who fought and suffered and bled for you. Even taking into consideration the large number of soldiers who came from the farms, you would not find more than one man in a thousand who could or would settle on a land grant in Alaska. If they had the will to go and the desire for the adventure, they could not pay their transportation, and many on arriving would become a burden on the State. It is all very well to remind the soldiers that they fought for love of country, for the glorious Stars and Stripes and all the rest of the patriotic talk and to say that reward is quite incompatible with such proud service. If the boys did their bit, let some of the others take their turn now at the glory stuff and see how much these patriots are willing to contribute in cold cash for the honor of their country. They should be proud to give, shouldn't they?

According to statistics I saw a couple of years ago, there were at that time approximately 20,000 millionaires in the United States, a majority of whom amassed their wealth during the war. Assessing each of them $100,000 would bring a tidy sum of $2,000,000,000. Assessing them 10 per cent. would bring considerably more and help to pay for the bonus for some time to come. Many of these people are not much affected by the income tax legislation, as they are skilled in evading the tax collector and have their money tied up in nontaxable bonds and in other ways to get the best of Uncle Sam.

HUGH F. RODEN.

"If a Chicken and a Half"—

To the Editor of The Evening World:

"A" says that if 1½ chickens lay 1½ eggs in 1½ days, then 7 chickens will lay 28 eggs in 6 days. "B" says that this is wrong. Explain this problem in your paper. How long will it take one chicken to lay one egg? J. H.
New York, Feb. 18, 1922.

UNCOMMON SENSE

By John Blake

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LANGUAGES.

To the educated man everything tells its story. The rocks answer questions about their age and their composition. The trees talk of their value to commerce and their relationship to each other. Animals break the spell of dumbness imposed upon them by nature and announce their place in the procession called evolution.

Human progress did not really begin till men mastered the art of language. When our forefathers could only speak to each other by signs or, as was often the case, by blows, it was only the best mind that could accomplish anything.

When language came, a consensus of minds became possible. Experiences and ideas could be communicated. After that all intelligent creatures in their same neighborhood could interchange ideas and opinions, so that the intelligent could teach the unintelligent. That was the beginning of education.

You who live in this day can learn any language you choose, or as many as you choose.

If it were possible for you to exhaust all the wisdom that is written in your own tongue you could double your opportunities by learning an additional tongue.

In the study of many of the sciences it is necessary for the student to learn French and German in order to avail himself of text books that have never been adequately translated.

He must also learn that language we spoke of in the first paragraph—the language that created things speak as plainly as if they had tongues.

Wordsworth's "primrose by the river's brim," which was only a starry blossom to the peasant, tells to the poet a story of beauty and unfolds to the botanist a long history of growth and development.

We are educated or uneducated according as we understand languages, not necessarily foreign tongues, but the speech of the objects which go to make up the world. We can learn to read the messages that each of these has, if we choose, as the Indian reads the signs of the trail, hidden to the white man.

When we learn these things we are educated, whether or not we have spent any time in a university or can add the letters of a degree to our names.

From the Wise

Literary history is the great morgue where all seek the dead ones whom they love or to whom they are related.—Heine.

Words are daughters of earth, but ideas are sons of heaven.
—Dr. Johnson.

He kissed me hard, as though he'd pluck up kisses by roots that grew upon my lips.—Shakespeare.

The true measure of life is not length, but honesty.—John Lyly.

As the Saying Is

"CORPORATIONS HAVE NO SOULS."

This legal maxim was first laid down by Sir Edward Coke in the case of Sutton's Hospital. "They (corporations) cannot commit treason nor be outlawed nor excommunicated, for they have no souls." Lord Thurlow subsequently paraphrased this maxim in his own rough way: "You never expected justice from a corporation, did you? They have neither a soul to lose nor a body to kick."

Blue Law Persecution

By Dr. S. E. St. Amant.

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As a result of meetings held at Springdale, Ark., a church of Sabbatarians was organized and a church building erected. In addition to his subscription to the enterprise, J. W. Scoles agreed to paint the building. I quote him:

"I worked at the church at odd times, sometimes half a day and sometimes more, as I could spare the time. The last Sunday in April, in order to finish the work so that I could be free to leave the next day for the summer's labor with the tent, I went to the church and finished a small strip of painting on the south side of the house, clear out of sight of all public roads. Here I quietly worked for perhaps two hours, in which time I finished it, and then went home. It was for this offense that I was indicted."

At the fall term of the Circuit Court held at Fayetteville, Mr. J. A. Armstrong of Springdale, a member of the newly organized church, was summoned before the Grand Jury. He was asked if he knew of any violators of the Sunday Law. He said he did.

Grand Jury—Who are they?

Armstrong—The Frisco Railroad is running trains every Sunday.

G. J.—Do you know of any others?

A.—Yes; the hotels of this place are open and do a full run of business on Sunday, as on other days.

G. J.—Do you know of any others?

A.—Yes, sir; the drug stores and barber shops all keep open and do business every Sunday.

G. J.—Do you know of any others?

A.—Yes; the livery stables do more business on Sunday than on any other day of the week. The same is true of the garages.

After several repetitions of this form of questions and answers, this question was asked:

G. J.—Do you know of any Saturday keepers who ever work on Sunday?

A.—Yes, sir.

After obtaining from the witness the names of his brethren, indictments were found against five of them, himself and Mr. Scoles being of the number.

Upon trial Mr. Scoles was convicted. An appeal was taken to the Supreme Court of the State, which affirmed the judgment of the Circuit Court. Thereupon about twenty cases essentially the same as that of Mr. Scoles, which had been held over in the different Circuit Courts of the State, awaiting the decision of the Supreme Court, came up for trial.

One of these was that of Mr. Armstrong, who was charged with having dug potatoes on Sunday and was arrested and held under $250 bonds for appearance in the Circuit Court.

At the time of the alleged offense Mr. Armstrong had a contract for building a school house at Springdale. One Millard Courtney, with a friend, went to Mr. Armstrong's house on Sunday to negotiate a contract for putting the tin roof on the school house. They found Mr. Armstrong in his field, digging potatoes. There the business was all talked over and the contract for putting on the roof secured. Then this same Mr. Courtney became prosecuting witness against Mr. Armstrong for working on Sunday. At his trial at Fayetteville Mr. Armstrong was convicted; his fine and costs, amounting to $26.50, were paid and he was released.

Seven months later Mr. Armstrong was again arrested on the same charge and was fined $1 and costs, amounting to $4.65. In default of payment, Mayor S. L. Staples, before whom he was tried, ordered him sent to the County Jail, allowing him $1 a day until the fine and costs were paid.

Within four hours from the time of his arrest Mr. Armstrong, in charge of the Marshal, was on his way to the jail at Fayetteville. He was locked up with another prisoner, with nothing but a little straw and a dirty blanket about thirty inches wide for a bed for both. The next night he was allowed to lie in the corridor on the brick floor, with his alpaca coat for a bed and his Bible for a pillow. The third night a friend in town furnished him a quilt and a pillow. On the fourth night his friend brought him another quilt and thus he was made comfortable. On the fifth day at noon he was released.

Upon his return to Springdale, Mr. Armstrong was notified by Mayor Staples that his fine and costs were not satisfied and that unless they were paid within ten days an execution would be issued and his property sold. Mr. Armstrong filed an appeal to the Circuit Court, where the appeal was sustained and Mr. Armstrong released from further penalty.

MONEY TALKS

By HERBERT BENINGTON.

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TEA-POT BANKS.

In the country districts of France many peasants never put their money in banks, but keep it in the house. Sometimes a cracked tea-pot serves as a bank, or the money is put in a box and buried under the hearth stones.

Money kept like this is not working as it should.

Just to show how money can work, let us take an easy calculation. Suppose you bought ten $100 bonds which paid 10 per cent. a year, and reinvested the interest also at 10 per cent. At the end of fifty years you would own 695 bonds, and in 100 years 79,631 bonds, valued at $7,963,121, with an earning capacity of $796,312 a year.

So in 100 years your $1,000, by work, has grown nearly 8,000 times.